Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A network measurement configuration apparatus connected to a network having a plurality of measurement devices arranged therein, which measures traffic data **flowing in a segment and configures** ~~of~~ the network based on a measurement rule, comprising,

a receiving means which receives a user request including path information between two terminals and a measurement type,

a measurement device information storing means which stores information indicating a process for measuring traffic data that can be executed by the corresponding measurement device, and stores information indicating a segment in which a measurement of traffic data can be executed by the corresponding measurement device in each of said plurality of measurement devices,

a measurement device selecting means which selects a measurement device responsible for a measurement**, wherein a measurement device is capable of measuring a segment included in a path indicated by the path information included in a user request by referring to the measurement device information storing means, and is capable of executing a process which measures traffic data relating to the measurement type included in the user request** ~~based on the path information and measurement type~~, and

a measurement rule setting means which sets a measurement rule in the measurement device thus selected.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ **The** network measurement configuration apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising,

a network configuration storing means which stores information indicating connection relationships of segments configuring the network wherein,

the measurement device selecting means identifies segments included in a path indicated by the path information by referring the path information included in a user request and the network configuration storing means, and selects, as a measurement device responsible for a measurement, a measurement device which is capable of executing the measurement of the segments by referring the measure device information storing means

~~a measurement device information storing means which stores information indicating a process for measuring traffic data that can be executed by the corresponding measurement device and information indicating a measurable network range in each of said plurality of measurement devices, wherein,~~

~~said measurement device selecting means selects as a measurement device responsible for the measurement, a measurement device which includes in the measurable network range a measurable point obtained by path information included in the user request, and which is capable of executing the process which measures traffic data relating to the measurement type included in the user request~~.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ **The** network measurement configuration apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising,

a measurement type information storage means which stores information indicating the measurement type and information indicating at least one process which is needed to achieve a measurement corresponding to the measurement type in associated manner, wherein,

said measurement device selecting means determines as said measurement device which is capable of executing the process, a measurement device which is capable of executing the process associated with the measurement type included in the user request.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ **The** network measurement configuration apparatus according to claim 3, wherein,

said measurement type information storing means further stores the measurement type and the number of the measurement devices in associated manner, and

said measurement device selecting means selects the measurement device responsible for measurement based on the user request, the number corresponding to said number of the measurement devices associated with the measurement type included in the user request.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ **The** network measurement configuration apparatus according to claim 2, wherein,

said measurement device information storing means further stores, in each of said plurality of measurement devices, information indicating a maximum number of rules acceptable by the corresponding measurement device and information indicating number of rules which is currently set to the corresponding measurement device in association with each other, and

said measurement device selecting means does not select as the measurement device responsible for the measurement, the measurement device to which the number of rules currently set is equal to or more than the maximum number of rules acceptable by the corresponding measurement device.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ **The** network measurement configuration apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising;

a characteristic calculating device information output means which transmits information to identify a method for calculating a value corresponding to the measurement type, to said characteristic calculating device which calculates a value corresponding to the measurement type included in the user request, based on the traffic data measured by the measurement device.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ **The** network measurement configuration apparatus according to claim 6, wherein,

a measurement rule is set in the measurement device thus selected, after the information for identifying the method for calculating a value corresponding to the measurement type is transmitted to said characteristic calculating device.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ **The** network measurement configuration apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising,

a problem determining means which determines whether or not a problem occurs in the measurement device, wherein,

when the problem occurs in the measurement device being selected, said measurement device selecting means selects as the measurement device responsible for the measurement, instead of the measurement device being selected, **other measurement device which is capable of measuring segments included in a path indicated by path information included in a user request and is capable of executing a process which measures traffic data relating to a measuring type included in the user request, other measurement device which is capable of measuring segments adjacent to the segments included in the path indicated by the path information included in the user request and is capable of executing a process which measures traffic data relating to a measuring type included in the user request** ~~**a measurement device including a measurement point obtained by the path information in the user request in the measurable network range, or a measurement device including the measurement point in a network range adjacent to said measurable network range, and available for measurement the traffic data relating to the measurement type included in the user request**~~.

9. (Original) A network measurement configuration apparatus according to claim 6, wherein,

said user request further includes information relating to a demand for a network service quality, and further comprising a quality management server information output means which transmits information relating to the demand for the network service quality, to a quality management server which evaluates the network service quality based on the measurement type calculated by said characteristic calculating device.